

PATENT

REMARKS**DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICATION**

The paragraph in the Cross-Reference to Related Applications has been amended to include updated information on the status of the related patent applications. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to correct and inadvertent typographical error. In particular, on page 8, line 8, "is actually" has been replaced with --is actually--. Acceptance of the amendments is respectfully requested.

DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,243,606 to Mann et al.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 4, and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled and claims 2, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7, and 8 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 2

In the Office Action, claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

PATENT

Dependent Claims 3-5

Claims 3-5 depend from claim 2 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 7

In the Office Action, claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 6. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 8

For at least the same reasons for allowing claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Page 7 of 7

Docket No. A03P1057US01